

Activating Schema (Background Knowledge) and Making Connections

Learning Goal: You will remember and understand more about what you read when you activate your schema and make connections to it

BEFORE READING

1. Directions: Before you read the poem, *Pupil*, use the graphic organizer below to chart your thinking as you take a look at the title, look at the pictures, and then skim the text:

Before Reading		
What I Notice About the Text	Activating Schema Think about all of your experiences and knowledge (concept, topic, genre, author, text)	Making Connections
A few things I notice <i>before</i> I read the text are. . .	What I already know and bring to the text:	What the text is about/What the text reminds me of:

DURING READING

2. Directions: As you read the poem, Pupil, use the graphic organizer below to chart your thinking:

During Reading			
<u>Directions</u> : Read the text, annotate your noticings in the margin.		Activating Schema	Making Connections
		Think about all of your experiences and knowledge (concept, topic, genre, author, text)	
Pupil	My noticings as I read the text	What I already know and bring to the text:	What the text is about/What the text reminds me of:
<p>Brianne Carpenter</p> <p>One time I saw a <i>National Geographic</i> with eyes on the cover. Eyes the color of honey and pondwater. Eyes whose mouth's angle was draped behind a veil. A whole generation—that couldn't find Afghanistan on a map—knew the country by its eyes. The journalist won prizes. The child with no more family left school, was married, made her own.</p> <p>One time I saw a movie set in 2506, half a millennium after 1984, but the government was still keeping track of everyone by scanning their retinas because the fingerprint of your eye never changes --you always have the same soul, and that never changes either. It leaps into your eyes when you are born, which is why you can recognize yourself in baby pictures, even though you are bald and have no teeth.</p>			

<p>Seventeen years later, <i>National Geographic</i> gathered a search party out of curiosity, compassion, or because Afghanistan was important again. They traveled across oceans and deserts, through mountains, archives, along the trails traced by word of mouth to find eyes.</p> <p>When they found them, they published an article. It came with lots of proof and scientific data because no one could believe that, in seventeen years, the eyes had found their way into the worn face of an old woman. Everyone thought, "She could have been so beautiful." They thought, "She could have had a different life." Some wondered who decides what life is best. Some gave money. Many forgot.</p> <p>If someday, in a morning, you see you, in a mirror or the dent of a spoon, and wonder Where is my soul and where has it gone, remember this: Catch the gaze of a woman on the metro, subway, tram. Look at a man. Seek and you will find you in the slivered space, a flash between souls.</p>			
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